

# ESPN2026

## Consensus Conference & 7<sup>th</sup> Refresher Course

January 22-24, 2026  
ROME • ITALY  
NH Collection Roma Centro

Organised by:  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY for  
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY



### ESPN CONSENSUS 2026 Consensus Conference on head and spine injuries

Thursday, 22 January 2026

**09:15-09:30**      **Welcome to participants / Introduction to the Consensus**

**Gianpiero Tamburrini** (Italy)

**09:30-12:05**      **Session 1: Monitoring in severe head injury**

Q1 - Define the role of ICP monitoring and other option of neuromonitoring to enhance outcome

Chairs: **Radek Frič** (Norway), **Gianpiero Tamburrini** (Italy)

**09:30-09:45**      **Simona Gaudino** (Italy): Radiological assessment and monitoring in severe head injury

**09:45-10:00**      **Marco Piastra** (Italy): ICU monitoring and the role of ICP

**10:00-10:15**      **Stefano Pezzato** (Italy): Guidelines and "common practice": the intensivist's point of view

**10:15-10:30**      **Radek Frič** (Norway): Guidelines and "common practice": the neurosurgeon's point of view

**10:30-11:00**      **Coffee Break**

**11:00-11:15**      **Andrew Reisner** (USA): The utility of biomarkers in traumatic brain injuries in children: opportunities and challenges.

**11:15-11:30**      Panel discussion

**11:30-11:35**      **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Pediatric head trauma in the first year of life

**11:35-11:40**      **Oleksandr Voloshchuk** (Ukraine): Combat-related brain injuries in children. Case series analysis

**11:40-11:45**      **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Rising paediatric traumatic brain injuries from electric scooters

**11:45-11:50**      **Samvel Sargsyan** (Armenia): Intracranial Pressure and Temperature Monitoring in Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury: Predictive Value, Outcomes, and Clinical Implications

**11:50-11:55**      **Armen Nazaryan** (Armenia): Asymptomatic arachnoid cyst hemorrhages due to minor head injuries. case series

**11:55-12:00**      **Catarina Barreira** (Portugal): Post-Traumatic Acute Subdural Hematoma Secondary to Ruptured Arachnoid Cyst in a Child: Critical Surgical Indication Despite Negative Transcranial Doppler

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12:00-12:05

**Supachai Srichantha** (Thailand): Traumatic Intracranial Hemorrhage in Pediatric Patients: A Single-Center Experience

**Patrick Kamalo** (Malawi): Optimizing the Management of Traumatic Brain Injuries in Pediatric Patients at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Malawi

12:05-13:40

### Session 2: Cranioplasty

Q2- Which is the state of the art on cranioplasty in children?

Chairs: **Franco Servadei** (Milan), **Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale** (Germany)

12:05-12:20

**Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale** (Germany): Decompressive craniectomy and craniotomy in children

12:20-12:35

**Paolo Frassanito** (Italy): Cranioplasty: which materials?

12:35-12:50

**Thomas Beez** (Germany): Cranioplasty in infants

**ZOOM**

12:50-13:05

Panel discussion (drawing 3 statements for voting: decompressive craniotomy in infants? timing of cranioplasty? materials?)

13:05-13:10

**Valentina Baro** (Italy): Surgical Management of Refractory Intracranial Hypertension in Children: A Single-Centre Experience Compared with Current Evidence

13:10-13:15

**Alexandru Szathmari** (France): Cranioplasty post-decompressive craniectomy for intracranial hypertension: state of the art in a single center with 15 years of follow-up

13:15-13:20

**Sharon Low** (Singapore): 3D-printed polycaprolactone-tricalcium phosphate patient-specific implants for paediatric cranioplasty: report of 2 cases

13:20-13:25

**Housseem Hdhili** (Tunisia): Cranioplasty after depressed skull fracture in children: Biological cement versus porous hydroxyapatite in resource-limited countries

13:25-13:30

**Rina Agushi** (Italy): Cranioplasty in children: A revolutionary titanium supra-periosteal 3D-printed cranial prosthesis

13:30-13:35

**Farah Bahri** (Tunisia): Surgical management of pediatric growing skull fracture with autologous cranioplasty: A case report

13:35-13:40

**Housseem Hdhili** (Tunisia): Extradural hematoma as a postoperative complication of cranioplasty in children: A case-based review

**Samvel Sargsyan** (Armenia): Reconstruction After Pediatric Skull Defects: Factors Influencing Bone Healing and Reoperation Rates

13:40-14:10

### Lunch break

14:10-16:00

### Session 3: Post-traumatic hydrocephalus (PTH)

Q3- How to diagnose and treat PTH?

Chairs: **Federico Bianchi** (Italy), **Federico Di Rocco** (France)

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14:10-14:25	<b>Andrew Reisner</b> (USA): Post-traumatic hydrocephalus: specific pediatric features	
14:25-14:40	<b>Martin U. Schuhmann</b> (Germany): How to diagnose PTH (functional tests and telemetric ICP)	
14:40-14:55	<b>Federico Di Rocco</b> (France): How to treat PTH (shunt versus ETV)	
14:55-15:15	Panel discussion (drawing 3 statements for voting: diagnosis and management? conflict with cranioplasty?)	
15:15-15:20	<b>Wièm Mansour</b> (Tunisia): Delayed post-traumatic hydrocephalus in a child: Case report and literature review	
15:20-15:25	<b>Farah Bahri</b> (Tunisia): Delayed Post-Traumatic Hydrocephalus Following Decompressive Craniectomy in a Child: A Case Report and Surgical Considerations	
15:25-15:30	<b>Andreas Schaumann</b> (Germany): New experiences in telemetric home-monitoring and evaluation of the intracranial pressure in patients with CSF circulation disturbances	
15:30-16:00	<b>Industry session</b>	
	Building a Safer Hydrocephalus Service: Smarter Infection Prevention protocols for EVDs and Shunts in Children	
	<b>Paolo Frassanito</b> , Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS (Italy) <b>Pasquale Gallo</b> , Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Trust Foundation, (United Kingdom)	
16:00-16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:30-18:30	<b>Session 4: CVJ injuries</b>	
	Q3- When to assess? When to treat?	
	Chairs: <b>Luca Proietti</b> (Italy), <b>Dominic Thompson</b> (United Kingdom)	
16:30-16:45	<b>Deepak Gupta</b> (Italy): CVJ anatomy and biomechanics	<b>ZOOM</b>
16:45-17:00	<b>Gianluca Piatelli</b> (Italy): Pathologies with increased risk of CVJ injuries	
17:00-17:15	<b>Dominic Thompson</b> (United Kingdom): CVJ injuries: diagnosis and treatment	
17:15-17:30	Panel discussion (drawing 3 statements for voting: scan versus clinical monitoring (red flag)?	
17:30-17:35	<b>Betul Yaman</b> (Turkey): Tiny Necks, Major Instability: Surgical Management of Upper Cervical Spine Injuries in Children	
17:35-17:40	<b>Davide Palombi</b> (Italy): Surgical management of craniovertebral junction injuries and instability in children: a single-center experience	
17:40-17:45	<b>Viviana Minichini</b> (Belgium): Missed Odontoid Synchondrosis Fracture Presenting as Torticollis in a 5-Year-Old Boy: A Diagnostic Challenge	
17:45-17:50	<b>Modhi Alhussenan</b> (Saudi Arabia): Atlantoaxial Rotatory Fixation After Ear Reconstruction in a Child with Oculo-Auriculo-Vertebral Spectrum: A Case of Conservative Management and Closed Reduction Technique	

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- 17:50-17:55 **Modhi Alhussenan** (Saudi Arabia): Central Cord Syndrome Unmasking Craniovertebral Junction Anomaly in a Child with Growth Hormone Deficiency
- 17:55-18:00 **Anna- Maria Barciszewska** (Poland): Traumatic craniocervical dissociation with spinal cord injury in children: case report and review of the literature
- 18:00-18:05 **Housseem Hdhili** (Tunisia): The Thorn Beneath: A Tale of Wood, Nerves, and Recovery
- 18:05-18:15 Discussion
- 18:15-18:30** **Final remarks**

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### Friday, 23 January 2026

#### 08:30-11:00 Session 5: Shaken baby syndrome

Q3- Define the most reliable diagnostic algorithm

Chairs: **Luca Massimi** (Italy), **Martin U. Schuhmann** (Germany)

08:30-08:45 **Friederike Knerlich-Lukoschus** (Germany): Ethical aspects and dilemmas

#### 08:45-09:13 Free presentations

08:45-08:52 **Paola Ragazzi** (Italy): Abusive head trauma (AHT) in Regina Margherita Hospital: the experience of Pediatric Neurosurgery in cooperation with the 'Bambi'

08:52-08:59 **Valentina Baro** (Italy): Abusive head Trauma: 20-years experience of Padua Tertiary University Hospital's Child Abuse & Neglect Unit (CANU). A case-based overview

08:59-09:06 **Martin Planet** (France): Abusive head trauma: sociodemographic, medical and surgical analysis of a single-center cohort of 259 patients

09:06-09:13 **Maria Skotida** (Greece): From Parental Stress to Prevention: A Public Health Roadmap for Shaken Baby Syndrome

09:13-09:30 **Panel discussion** (drawing 3 statements for voting: red flags? when to send a warning? ethic and Legal consideration? advanced in diagnostics?)

09:30-09:45 **Luca Tortorolo** (Italy): Simulation and training in the management of head injury

09:45-10:00 **Anthony Figaji** (South Africa): Advanced neuromonitoring: what we have learnt and where are we heading to?

**ZOOM**

10:00-10:30 Discussion

10:30-11:00 Voting the statement with "Delphi" method (SLIDO app) - round #1

#### 11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Discussion of results and poll round #2

12:30-13:00 Final remarks



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### ESPN Refresher COURSE

#### Updates and advances on craniosynostosis

**Friday, 23 January 2026**

#### 14:00-16:00 Session 1

Chairs: **Federico Di Rocco** (France), **Marie Lise van Veelen** (The Netherlands)

- 14:00-14:05 **Luca Massimi** (Italy), **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Presentation of the Refresher Course
- 14:05-14:20 **Wanda Lattanzi** (Italy): What genetic anomalies in isolated synostoses and how to deal with panel results
- 14:20-14:35 **Daniela Chieffo** (Italy): Functional (autism ecc.) and school results in monosutural synostoses: what to tell the parents at first consultation?
- 14:35-14:50 **Giovanna Paternoster** (France): Follow-up in craniosynostosis surgery. What can go wrong after age 10?
- 14:50-15:05 **Irene Mathijssen** (The Netherlands): Update on ERN CRANIO follow-up protocols
- 15:05-15:20 **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Modern concepts of CSF disorders in monosutural craniosynostosis
- 15:20-15:35 **Carlo Giussani** (Italy): Training of craniofacial surgery using 3D models
- 15:35-15:50 **Irene Mathijssen** (The Netherlands): Maxillofacial issues
- 15:50-16:00 Discussion

#### 16:00-16:30 Coffee break

#### 16:30-17:45 Session 2

Chairs: **Giovanna Paternoster** (France), **Martin U. Schuhmann** (Germany)

- 16:30-17:30 Industry session
- 17:30-17:45 **Federico Di Rocco** (France), **John Kestle** (USA), **Irene Mathijssen** (The Netherlands): Cases for discussion (syndromic and non-syndromic)

#### 17:45-19:30 Session 3

Chairs: **Laura Grazia Valentini** (Italy), **Gianpiero Tamburrini** (Italy)

- 17:45-18:00 **Martin U. Schuhmann** (Germany): ICP evaluation in scaphocephaly
- 18:00-18:15 **Marianne Juhler** (Denmark): Does raised ICP play a role on cognitive outcome in scaphocephaly? **ZOOM**

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18:15-18:45 Risk of raised ICP after:

H craniectomy: long term results analysis: **Giovanna Paternoster** (France)

Mini-invasive craniectomies: long term results analysis: **Gianpiero Tamburrini** (Italy)

Endoscopic suturectomy: long term results analysis: **Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale** (Germany)

18:45-19:00 **Laura Grazia Valentini** (Italy): CMI in isolated scaphocephaly: a common finding in old unoperated patients?

19:00-19:15 **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Skull changes after endoscopic management of scaphocephalies: the role of the post-operative helmet?

19:15-19:30 Discussion

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### Saturday, 24 January 2026

#### 08:00-10:30 Session 4

Chairs: **Roman Hossein Khonsari** (France), **Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale** (Germany)

- 08:00-08:15 **Marie Lise van Veelen** (The Netherlands): Springs for scaphocephalies: detailed technique and long-term results
- 08:15-08:30 **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Role of Near Infrared Spectroscopy during scaphocephaly surgery
- 08:30-08:45 **Marie Lise van Veelen** (The Netherlands): Indication for surgery of metopic synostosis
- 08:45-09:00 **Federico Di Rocco** (France): Possible influencing factors for metopic synostosis: a RNASEQ analysis
- 09:00-09:15 **John Kestle** (USA): Endoscopic management vs open fronto-orbital distraction in coronal synostosis
- 09:15-09:30 **Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale** (Germany): Lambdoid synostosis: indications
- 09:30-09:45 **John Kestle** (USA): Cranial vault remodeling vs endoscopy in lambdoid synostosis
- 09:45-10:00 **Niina Salokorpi** (Finland): Posterior distraction in craniosynostoses
- 10:00-10:30 Discussion

#### 10:30-11:00 Coffee break

#### 11:00-13:30 Session 5

Chairs: **Niina Salokorpi** (Finland), **John Kestle** (USA)

- 11:00-11:15 **Gianpiero Tamburrini** (Italy): Timing of surgery
- 11:15-11:30 **Giovanna Paternoster** (France): Anterior vs posterior advancement
- 11:30-11:45 **Roman Hossein Khonsari** (France): Internal vs external distraction
- 11:45-12:00 **Giulio Gasparini** (Italy): Management of respiratory problems
- 12:00-12:15 **Luca Massimi** (Italy): Management of hydrocephalus
- 12:15-12:30 **Laura Grazia Valentini** (Italy): Management of Chiari
- 12:30-12:45 **Wanda Lattanzi** (Italy): Non-surgical treatments
- 12:45-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-13:30 **Federico Di Rocco** (France), **John Kestle** (USA): Cases for discussion (syndromic and non-syndromic)

#### 13:30-13:45 Final remarks

**Luca Massimi** (Italy), **Federico Di Rocco** (France)